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Progress Report On

Integrated Regional Training, Research and Advisory Programme for
the Conservation and Management of African Wildlife

Integrated Regional Training, Research and Advisory Programme for
the conservation and management of African Wildlife

Since reporting to the Sixth Council of Ministers at its Meeting in February 1983 held in Mbabane, Swaziland, ECA once more, approached the Governments of Tanzania and Cameroon to seek their position on the proposed utilization of their national institutions (Mweka in Tanzania and Garoua in Cameroon) for a regional function. At the same time ECA wanted to determine points of contacts with the two Governments as well as to communicate to them the recommendations of the report of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit.

At the last Council of Ministers Meeting, it was reported that the Government of Tanzania had decided not to change the status of Mweka College into a regional institutions although the College would continue to admit students from other countries and that the Governing body would continue to have representatives from other African countries. Following some clarifications, the Government of Tanzania has made it quite clear that Mweka College can play a regional function while it continues to remain a national institution. In 1983 therefore, ECA has been pursuing a dialogue with Tanzania in respect of how Mweka College can serve the needs of the region.

Two events in 1983 enhanced ECA's position in pursuing the matter of Mweka and Garoua more vigorously with the Governments of Tanzania and Cameroon. A recommendation by the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of Nine of the Ministers Responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization held in Addis Ababa requested ECA to get in touch with the two Governments and hold discussions on the matter considering the importance of wildlife in the development of the African region. ECA through the Embassies in Addis Ababa, has had discussions with the two Governments to clarify matters that may be standing in the way of progress.

The second important development in African wildlife in 1983 was the Joint Inspection Unit report of February 1983, which made a number of pertinent recommendations for the development of African wildlife. It pointed out that there was urgent need to develop high level manpower for wildlife conservation and management. This could be done at five selected African universities on the pattern being proposed for Mweka College and Garoua School as the two institutions may not have the capacity to cater for all Africa's needs.

In pursuance of the JIU Report, the United Nations Secretary General presented it with his comments to ECOSOC and requested that the reports recommendations should be implemented. In an attempt to implement some of those recommendations UNESCO and ECA at their Joint Concenation Meeting held in February 1984 discussed ways and means of co-operation and collaboration in the development of African wildlife. ECA has also been in contact with other agencies inviting them to increase wildlife conservation and management content of their programmes and to co-operate with ECA in formulating and implementing and integrated approach to the development of wildlife in Africa. UNEP has already responded by saying that consideration is being made to strengthen the Environmental co-ordination Unit in ECA.

ECA has also been in contact with OAU seeking OAU's indulgence to get more African States subscribe to the OAU African Convention on wildlife and to convene a meeting of African experts on wildlife to lay down a framework for a regional strategy in the development of wildlife. The experts meeting is expected to work out modalities for establishing permanent technical forum for issues concerned with wildlife conservation and management.

In the light of these developments, contact is being actively maintained with the Governments of Tanzania and Cameroon and it is hoped that positive dialogue will follow on the measures to be taken in the development of the two institutions.

Financial Support

At the last Council of Ministers Meeting in Mbabane it was reported that the ECA Council of Ministers at its meeting in Tripoli in April 1982, the UNDP had informed the meeting that a sum of US\$1.5 million was being made available for Africa wildlife development during the 1982-86 programme cycle of the UNDP. Recent development however have shown that this sum is not available. The two institutions therefore will have to rely heavily on the contributions made by their Governments and by Non-Governmental organizations.

Action Required

Following the development in 1983, ECA should be requested to pursue more vigorously its efforts for co-operation and collaboration with other UN agencies particularly UNESCO, FAO and UNEP and with OAU and Non-Governmental organizations in the implementation of the recommendations of the JIU Report. All efforts should be made to continue contact and dialogue with the two Governments. OAU should continue making appeals to African States to subscribe to the African Convention on wildlife.